

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated August 19, 2003, (paper no. 10) the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 10-12, 18-20, and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applicants' admitted prior art in view of Funada et al. (U.S. patent no. 6,417,731). The Examiner allowed claims 5-9, 13-17, 21, and 22. The rejections and objections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

In order to put the application in condition for allowance, the applicants are canceling the rejected claims 1-4, 10-12, 18-20, and 23-25. Also, the applicants have amended claim 7 to make it depend upon claim 5. Since the remaining claims 5-9, 13-17, 21, and 22 have been allowed by the Examiner, the applicants respectfully request that the application may now be passed to allowance.

As the applicants have overcome all substantive rejections and objections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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